

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2025

DISABLED, NOT UNABLE

BOOKLIST FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN



The Disabled, Not Unable Booklist is a list of recent books for all ages about the diverse experiences of the disabled and neurodivergent community. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Disability Pride Month each year.

**Compiled by
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ON THE COVER:

Yvie Oddly, author of

All about Yvie: Into the Oddity.

Photograph by Marc Minton.



CHILDREN



Accidental Demons »

By Clare Edge

Whenever she tests her blood sugar, diabetic witch Ber accidentally summons a demon who causes chaos. Good thing

she knows that a magical problem has a magical solution: She'll just conjure her own demon to monitor her blood sugar for her!

J SCIFI FANTASY EDGE C



Butterfly on the Wind

By Adam Pottle

This book begins with Aurora, a Deaf girl who is anxious about

sharing a fairy tale at the school talent show. As her fears fly away on magical butterfly wings, we travel around the globe before returning to Aurora.

J PICTURE POTTLE A



Dancing in the Storm »

By Amie Darnell Specht & Shannon Hitchcock

Twelve-year-old Kate's life takes a drastic turn when a mysterious shoulder pain reveals she has

Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, a rare genetic disorder that challenges her to adapt with the help of her penpal and loved ones.

J FICTION SPECHT A



Deer Run Home »

By Ann Clare LeZotte

With a family who refuses to learn sign language, Effie is unable to speak of her abusive stepfather or violent father. Only

her interpreter, Miss Kathy, understands and is willing to take Effie's case to court to provide her with a safe home.

J FICTION LEZOTTE A



Drawing Deena »

By Hena Khan

When aspiring artist Deena's anxiety reaches a breaking point, she learns the importance of asking for help, and

that, with the right support, she can create something truly beautiful.

J FICTION KHAN H



Flap Your Hands: A Celebration of Stimming

By Steve Asbell

Join four neurodivergent children as they celebrate how fun and helpful stimming — making repetitive body movements to help self-regulate — can be!

J PICTURE ASBELL S

- » available as an audiobook
- available as an eBook
- 🖨️ graphic novel



Gut Reaction »□

By Kirby Larson & Quinn Wyatt

Tess Medina bakes to cope with the loss of her beloved father and transitioning to a new

school, but when tasting her creations makes her increasingly ill, she tries to stay strong and power through the pain.

J FICTION LARSON K



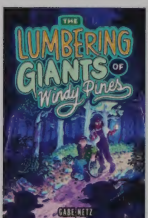
Like a Curse »□

By Elle McNicoll

Stuck in Loch Ness while Edinburgh falls under the control of a powerful siren, dyspraxic witch-in-training Ramya must

learn the true meaning of her powers before she loses everything she loves.

J FICTION MCNICOLL E



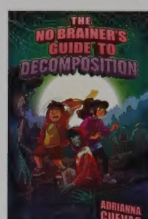
The Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines »□

By Mo Netz

After discovering her missing mother is actually a demon slayer, Jerry ventures into the forbidden woods in

her trusty wheelchair to unravel the truth about the town and save her mom.

J FICTION NETZ M



No-brainer's Guide to Decomposition »□

By Adrianna Cuevas

Balancing school, friends, and a constantly wandering brain is challenging enough, but when bodies

start crawling out of the ground, Frani has more than one puzzle to solve.

J FICTION CUEVAS A



Out of My Dreams »□

By Sharon M. Draper

Melody, who uses a wheelchair and an assistive device to communicate, helps rescue an elderly neighbor,

an act of heroism that takes her to London to speak at a symposium. But big-time nerves set in: How can a girl who's never spoken a word out loud give an entire speech?

J FICTION DRAPER S



Shiny Misfits »☀

By Maysoon Zayid

When a mishap at the school talent show goes viral and Bay Ann's cerebral palsy is suddenly seen as inspirational,

her classmate, Alyee Maq, gets praised for kissing her. Bay Ann sets out to beat him at his own game and to make the world see her, not just her condition.

J GRAPHIC SHINY MISFITS

» available as an audiobook

□ available as an eBook

☀ graphic novel



Splinter and Ash »

By Marieke Nijkamp

A princess who uses a cane and arm braces and her nonbinary squire embark on a dangerous quest to save their kingdom — and each other.

J SCIFI FANTASY NIJKAMP M



This Is How We Play: A Celebration of Disability and Adaptation »

By Jessica Slice

We all play! This picture book deftly illustrates and celebrates the many ways that people with disabilities and their families play, imagine, and explore together.

J PICTURE SLICE J



You're So Amazing! »

By James Catchpole

Everyone tells One-Legged Joe that he's amazing. Amazing

Joe is better than being Poor Joe, but why can't he just be Normal Joe?

J PICTURE CATCHPOL J

TEEN



The Breakup Lists »

By Adib Khorram

A high school stage manager with hearing loss faces his complicated feelings about love when he falls for the same guy as his sister.

TEEN FICTION KHORRAM A



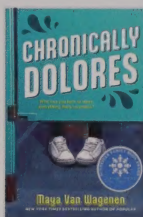
Breathing Underwater »

By Abbey Lee Nash

Competitive swimmer Tess grapples with the upheaval of her carefully planned future following an epilepsy diagnosis and works to get

back in the pool, despite her doctor's advice and her distracting feelings for the new guy.

TEEN FICTION NASH A



Chronically Dolores »

By Maya Van Wagenen

Dolores thinks interstitial cystitis will ruin her life, but when she meets autistic homeschooler

Terpsichore, the two hatch a plan: Terpsichore will help Dolores win back her ex-friend, and Dolores will convince Terpsichore's mom to let her attend public school.

TEEN FICTION VANWAGEN M



Compound Fracture »

By Andrew Joseph White

After nearly being beaten to death for having evidence against a corrupt sheriff, trans and autistic teen Miles works to end the blood feud and

oppressive politics that plague his town.

TEEN FICTION WHITE A



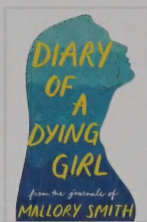
Conditions of a Heart »

By Bethany Mangle

Brynn does everything she can to hide her Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, but when she breaks up a fight and ends up suspended, she

realizes that she's tired of pretending.

TEEN FICTION MANGLE B



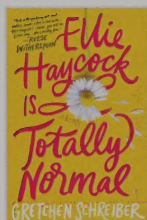
Diary of a Dying Girl »□

By Mallory Smith

A collection of diary entries tackling everything from sports to college to first relationships to living with cystic fibrosis,

published by the author's family at her request after her death at age 25.

TEEN BIOG RC858.C95 S65 2024



Ellie Haycock Is Totally Normal »□

By Gretchen Schreiber

Ellie hates her periodic hospital stays and the blog that her mother writes about having a disabled daughter.

But when she's hospitalized again, she makes friends with some of the other teens there, including a cute optimist named Ryan.

TEEN FICTION SCHREIBE G



A Game Most Foul »□

By Alison Gervais

A teen writer with hearing loss decides to search for a missing classmate while also figuring out how two supposedly-fictional Victorian detectives ended up in the 21st century.

TEEN MYSTERY GERVAIS A



Joined at the Joints »□

By Marissa Eller

Ivy prefers to stay home and bake, but when she meets a cute boy who shares her juvenile rheumatoid arthritis diagnosis,

she'll have to choose between a first romance and keeping her walls up.

TEEN FICTION ELLER M



The Loudest Silence »□

By Sydney Langford

Casey, a singer grappling with sudden hearing loss, and soccer captain Hayden, whose Generalized Anxiety Disorder weighs on his every move,

bond over their shared dream of a music career and enter their school's talent show.

TEEN FICTION LANGFORD S



The Marble Queen »☀

By Anna Kopp & Gabrielle Kari (illus.)

Princess Amelia accepts a proposal from a mysterious country to save her kingdom ...not expecting it to be from

their Queen. As she tries to make sense of new feelings, Amelia also must handle her anxiety disorder and fulfill her royal duties.

TEEN GRAPHIC MARBLE QUEEN



On the Bright Side »□

By Anna Sortino

After 18-year-old Ellie's Deaf boarding school shuts down, she attends a public high school where she struggles to adjust, but finds

an ally in Jackson, a soccer player going through a disability diagnosis of his own.

TEEN FICTION SORTINO A



One Killer Problem »□

By Justine Pucella Winans

When her favorite teacher is killed, Gigi recruits her friends to help solve his murder, all the while juggling a new crush and IBS flare-ups.

TEEN MYSTERY WINANS J



Time and Time Again »□

By Chatham Greenfield

Stuck in a time loop, queer Jewish teens Phoebe and Jess start to fall for each other, causing chronically ill Phoebe to worry

about a future that may never come.

TEEN FICTION GREENFIE C



Body Friend »□

By Katherine Brabon

While being stuck in surgical recovery, a woman grapples with her chronic illness. In consulting with fellow patients, she

learns that there are different ways to accept and live with her condition.

FICTION BRABON K



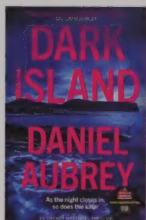
To a Darker Shore □

By Leanne Schwartz

In a kingdom that sacrifices its poor to appease a monster, autistic Alesta makes herself too useful to kill. When an invention goes awry and

her best friend takes the blame, Alesta travels through hell to slay the beast.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY SCHWARTZ L



Dark Island □

By Daniel Aubrey

Neurodivergent journalist Freya uproots her life in Glasgow when she quits her job and returns to her childhood home, but her

plans for a quiet life are shattered when human remains are found on the coast.

FICTION AUBREY D

FICTION



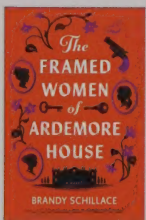
All Things Seen and Unseen □

By RJ McDaniel

Alex, after a period in rehab, is kicked out of school and gets a job house-sitting on a small island. Now

she must try to survive as an outsider in a remote, insular community, living through the trauma she has repressed to survive.

FICTION MCDANIEL R



The Framed Women of Ardmore House »□

By Brandy Shillace

When neurodivergent book editor Jo Jones takes possession of a possibly haunted

family estate, she finds herself at the center of a murder investigation, and to clear her name, she must unearth the town's secrets, and her own.

MYSTERY SCHILLAC B

») available as an audiobook

□ available as an eBook

graphic novel



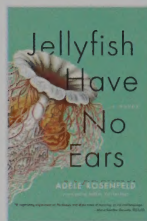
The Hearing Test »

By Eliza Barry Callahan

Diagnosed with Sudden Deafness, an artist in her late twenties keeps a record of her year as she reorients her relationship

to the world while living alone in a New York City studio apartment with her dog.

FICTION CALLAHAN E



Jellyfish Have No Ears »

By Adèle Rosenfeld

In a novel about the flaws of language, the fear of silence, and the power of imagination, Louise, almost completely

deaf, must decide whether she's willing to get an implant at the cost of her natural hearing.

FICTION ROSENFEL A



Here We Go Again »

By Alison Cochran

Two former best friends, both with very different types of ADHD, reunite when their beloved former English teacher and mentor tells them of his dying wish for a cross-country road trip.

ROMANCE COCHRAN A



Last Call at the Local »

By Sarah Grunder Ruiz

Sparks fly when a free-spirited American singer-songwriter with ADHD teams up with a charming Irishman to revitalize his family's pub.

ROMANCE RUIZ S



How to Dance »

By Jason B. Dutton

Opposites attract and sparks fly as a passionate dancer and a ladies' man with cerebral palsy who's given up on love

fall for each other, one tango at a time.

ROMANCE DUTTON J



Late Bloomer »

By Mazey Eddings

In this sweet sapphic romance between an ADHD artist and an autistic gardener, Opal wins the lottery and buys a flower

farm, except Pepper refuses to move off the farm! Can these opposites both live out their dreams and plant roots?

ROMANCE EDDINGS M



How to Get a Life in Ten Dates »

By Jenny L. Howe

Haleigh, a young woman with anxiety who's fed up with dating, challenges her family and friends to set her

up on ten dates, but she gets more than she bargained for when her best friend, who has OCD, adds himself to the roster.

ROMANCE HOWE J



Model Home »

By Rivers Solomon

After their parents' sudden deaths, the Maxwell siblings return to their family home to find the house, and the family itself, haunted by strange, inexplicable terrors.

FICTION SOLOMON R



Out on A Limb ㊦

By Hannah Bonam-Young

When a one-night stand leads to an unexpected pregnancy, Win and Bo decide to get to know each other as friends while embarking on their parenting journey, but soon discover that life rarely goes according to plan.

ROMANCE BONAMYOU H



A Sign of Her Own ㊦

By Sarah Marsh

Based on a true story, Ellen Lark, a deaf woman who becomes a favorite student of Alexander Graham Bell, must find her own voice

amongst the many ambitious for greatness.

FICTION MARSH S



Someone You Can Build a Nest In ㊦

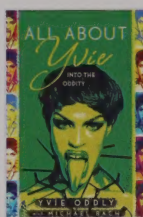
By John Wiswell

When shapeshifting monster Shesheshen is nursed back to health by Homily, a monster hunter, they fall

in love. Now Shesheshen must learn to not devour her love but to live with her.

SCIFI FANTASY WISWELL J

MEMOIR



All About Yvie: Into the Oddity ㊦

By Yvie Oddly & Michael Bach

Oddly reveals the path they took to finding their distinctive voice as a drag queen

with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, exploring how they developed their unconventional approach to drag while navigating the complexities of public and private identity.

BIOG HQ76.98.033 A3 2024



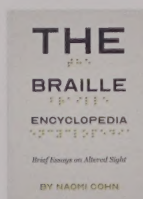
The Blind Woodsman ㊦

By John Furniss

In this inspiring memoir, a renowned woodworker shares how he found happiness despite his struggles with

drug addiction, anxiety, depression, financial despair, and permanent blindness caused by a failed suicide attempt when he was young.

BIOG HV1792 .F87A3 2024



The Braille Encyclopedia: Brief Essays on Altered Sight ㊦

By Naomi Cohn

Told in the form of imaginary encyclopedia entries, this meditation on progressive vision loss uses etymology, research, and personal anecdotes to illuminate Cohn's embrace of braille as she relearns how to read and write as an adult.

BIOG HV1792.C563 A3 2024

㊦ available as an audiobook

㊦ available as an eBook

🖱 graphic novel

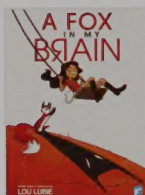


Brittle Joints

By Maria Sweeney

In her debut graphic memoir, Sweeney shares the challenges of living in an often-inaccessible world as an ambulatory wheelchair user with brittle bones.

GRAPHIC RC931.068 S44 2024

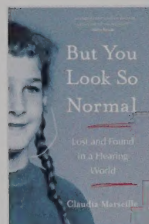


A Fox in My Brain

By Lou Lubie

Living with a bipolar spectrum disorder known as cyclothymia, Lubie navigates life alongside her metaphorical companion: a mischievous fox representing her condition.

GRAPHIC RC516 .L83 2024



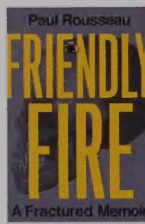
But You Look So Normal: Lost and Found in a Hearing World

By Claudia Marseille

Marseille chronicles her journey from isolation to self-acceptance, sharing

her experiences of being mainstreamed at age four despite being nearly nonverbal and learning how to navigate life while hiding her severe hearing loss.

BLOG HV2380 .M37 2024



Friendly Fire: A Fractured Memoir

By Paul Rousseau

After being accidentally shot in the head by his best friend, Rousseau adjusts to life with a traumatic brain

injury while navigating legal ramifications and the disintegration of his friendship.

BLOG HV3013.R67 A3 2024



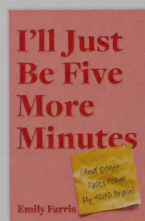
The Deaf Girl: A Memoir of Hearing Loss, Hope, and Fighting against the Odds

By Abigail Heringer

After capturing hearts on *The Bachelor* with her

candid revelation about reading lips, Heringer shares her evolution from a self-conscious deaf child to a confident woman who advocates for herself.

BLOG HV2534.H47 H46 2024



I'll Just Be Five More Minutes (and Other Tales from My ADHD Brain)

By Emily Farris

In this collection of honest, humorous, and heartbreaking essays, Farris shares her

experiences as a woman with ADHD who grew up internalizing criticisms about her lack of follow-through as she tried to fit into a world designed for neurotypical brains.

RC394.A85 F37 2024

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



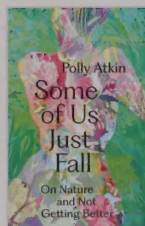
A Little Less Broken: How An Autism Diagnosis Made Me Whole 📖

By Marian Schembari

Diagnosed with autism at 34, one woman examines her life of masking

and explores why girls and women often go undiagnosed for decades.

BIOG HV1570.22.S34 A3 2024



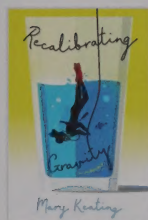
Some of Us Just Fall: On Nature and Not Getting Better 📖

By Polly Atkin

After finally receiving two diagnoses in her thirties, Atkin weaves together

memoir and nature writing to explore how the landscape that inspired generations of poets helps her navigate life with chronic illness.

BIOG RA566.5.G7 A85 2024



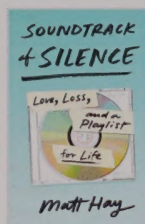
Recalibrating Gravity: A Memoir in Verse

By Mary Keating

At fifteen, Keating's life changed instantly when a car crash left her paraplegic. Through poetry, she

challenges how others define her by her wheelchair, showing how grace and wit can transform life's darkest moments.

BIOG HV1553 .K43 2024



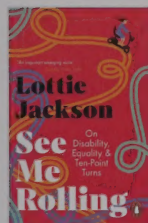
Soundtrack of Silence: Love, Loss, and a Playlist for Life 📖

By Matt Hay

In this mental playbook and homage to the bands he loved, Hay processes

his rapid hearing loss by reminiscing on a life revolving around music as he strives to commit his favorite songs to memory.

BIOG HV1553 .H38 2024



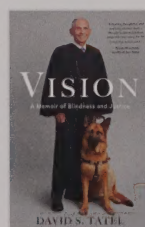
See Me Rolling: On Disability, Equality, and Ten-Point Turns 📖

By Lottie Jackson

In this part memoir, part manifesto, Jackson challenges how society views disability,

looking at everything from Instagram to office cubicles as she shows us how we can reimagine disability in every sphere of life.

BIOG HV1559.G7 J33 2024



Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice 📖

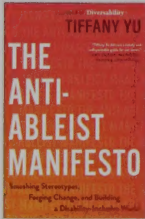
By David S. Tatel

Serving nearly 30 years on America's second highest court, one of

the nation's most accomplished public servants shares how he came to accept his blindness and the role it's played in his personal and professional lives.

BIOG HV1792.T38 A3 2024

NONFICTION

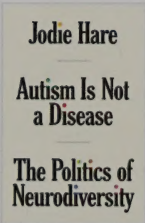


The Anti-Ableist Manifesto: Smashing Stereotypes, Forging Change, and Building a Disability-Inclusive World »

By Tiffany Yu

Yu, who lives with PTSD and a permanent arm injury, breaks down the language of ableism and shows how everyone can be an active anti-ableist and help form a more equitable world.

HV1568 .Y82 2024



Autism is Not a Disease: The Politics of Neurodiversity »

By Jodie Hare

This introduction to neurodiversity calls for the recognition of diversity as a

natural part of humanity, not a deviation from normalcy, and shows how we might commit to building a world where we can all thrive.

RC553.A88 H362 2024



Crip Spacetime: Access, Failure, and Accountability in Academic Life

By Margaret Price

Using over 300 interviews, Price reveals the distinct

realities of disabled academics, termed “crip spacetime” — a unique experience of time, space, and being within academia’s exclusionary system.

HV1568.2 .P75 2024



Dateable: Swiping Right, Hooking Up, and Settling Down While Chronically Ill and Disabled »

By Jessica Slice

Filling a crucial gap in mainstream dating advice,

this guide to apps, sex, and relationships shatters dating myths for chronically ill and disabled individuals and explores the complexities of finding love.

HV1568 .S556 2024



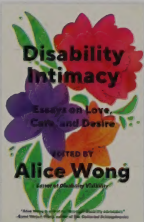
The Disabled Body in Contemporary Art

By Ann Millett-Gallant

An updated edition of the first book to cross the disciplines of disability studies and art history

spotlights contemporary disabled artists and their embodied, multimedia work.

N8236.P4 M55 2024



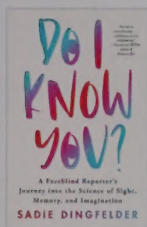
Disability Intimacy: Essays on Love, Care, and Desire »

By Alice Wong (ed.)

This revolutionary collection of essays, poetry, drama, and fiction explores intimacy

in its myriad forms, from caregiving and community to the numerous ways sexual liberation intersects with disability justice.

HQ30.5 .D57 2024



Do I Know You?: A Faceblind Reporter's Journey into the Science of Sight, Memory, and Imagination »□

By Sadie Dingfelder

A faceblind reporter explores the neuroscience of sight, memory, and imagination after learning that she has prosopagnosia, stereoblindness, aphantasia, and a newly-discovered syndrome that affects her ability to remember life events.

BF242 .D56 2024



A Fate Worse Than Death □

By Nisha Patel

Navigating healthcare systems and multiple chronic conditions, Patel explores disability through her own personal medical records, exposes how medical language often denies care, and questions the worth of life.

PS8631.A82945 F38 2024



Good Monster □

By Diannely Antigua

These poignant, visceral poems confront Antigua's chronic pain, trauma, anxiety, and depression as she reckons with shame and lost faith.

PS3601.N56875 G66 2024

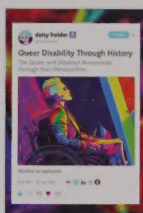


Pills and Jacksonvilles »□

By Jillian Weise

Weise explores identity and resilience, celebrating bodies and challenging norms through darkly comedic essays that urge us to confront biases and celebrate disability culture.

PS3623.E432474 A6 2024

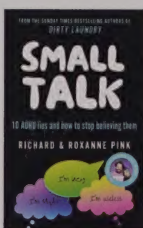


Queer Disability Through History: The Queer and Disabled Movements Through Their Personalities □

By Daisy Holder

This vital work reveals the intertwined histories of the LGBTQ+ and disabled communities, exploring how these movements shaped culture and highlighting the ongoing fight for equality.

HV1552.3 .H65 2024



Small Talk: 10 ADHD Lies and How to Stop Believing Them »□

By Roxanne Pink
and Richard Pink

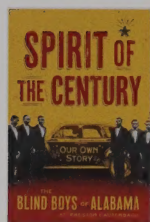
A woman with ADHD and her neurotypical husband share personal stories to highlight and reframe the ten big lies that ADHD people believe about themselves, from "I am lazy" to "everybody hates me."

RC394.A85 P56 2024

» available as an audiobook

□ available as an eBook

graphic novel



Spirit of the Century: Our Own Story 🎧📖

By The Blind Boys
of Alabama

Join the longest running
musical institution in America
as they shed light on the

world of African American gospel music and
share the story of their illustrious career,
beginning with a group of blind boys from
a segregated trade school in Alabama.

BIOG ML421.B5775 A3 2024



White Supremacy is All Around: Notes from a Black Disabled Woman in a White World 🎧📖

By Akilah Cadet

Drawing from her experience
as a Black, disabled

woman, Cadet exposes workplace bias
and systemic oppression, offering a
framework for true inclusion and belonging
by empowering BIPOC and guiding allies.

HT1575 .C35 2024



What's Wrong? Personal Histories of Chronic Pain and Bad Medicine 📖💥

By Erin Williams

Focusing on four firsthand
accounts, as well as her

own story, Williams explores how the
American healthcare system fails those
with chronic pain, as they're overlooked,
unseen, and doubted by the clinicians
who are supposed to heal them.

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